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World-Renowned African Vocalist at CMA

"One of Africa's greatest singers. His voice is exuberant." — *The New York Times*

CLEVELAND — Superstar vocalist **Baaba Maal** will perform at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) Jan. 18, 2002, as part of the museum's **VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts**. Maal's Cleveland debut is part of his first all-acoustic tour of North America. He and his five-member ensemble will perform the sounds and instruments not only of Senegal, but of West Africa in general. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Gartner Auditorium. Limited tickets are available at \$27 and \$23; call **1-888-CMA-0033** or buy online at www.clevelandart.org.

"For those who revel in excellent musicianship in any form, this concert is a must," notes Massoud Saidpour, CMA's artistic director of performing arts. "Baaba Maal's music is imbued with the purity of a timeless musical tradition and reflects both intellectuality and contemporary influences."

A Grammy nominee, Maal has made more than 10 recordings, including the acclaimed *Missing You (Mi Yeewnii)* (Palm Pictures, 2001), recorded outdoors in a village outside the Senegalese capital of Dakar; *Djam Leelii* (Ryko, 1998), featuring celebrated guitarist and griot (oral historian and storyteller) Mansour Seck; and the genre-mixing *Nomad Soul* (Palm Pictures, 1998). Singing in his native language of *fulani*, Maal explores the wonder and beauty of Africa and also his country's political troubles. Through music Maal hopes to inspire people to make peaceful progress.

Other members of Maal's ensemble are Mansour Seck, Mama Gaye (guitar), Barou Sall (*hoddu*, a four-stringed, lute-like instrument), Kauding Cissoko (*kora*, or West African harp), and El Hadji Niang (acoustic bass).

For more information about CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit www.clevelandart.org.

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